
SENATE BILL 5102

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman, Frame, Hunt, Lias, Saldaña, Trudeau, Valdez, and C. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to school library information and technology
2 programs; amending RCW 28A.320.240; adding new sections to chapter
3 28A.320 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students with
6 access to school library information and technology programs staffed
7 by qualified teacher-librarians have improved school and life
8 outcomes, including higher academic achievement, increased graduation
9 rates, and increased preparedness for college or career pathways.
10 Unfortunately, not all students have access to these programs
11 statewide, leading to disparate outcomes. Lack of access to these
12 programs disproportionately impacts low-income families and families
13 of color. Recent findings show that access to high-quality school
14 libraries was one of the most significant factors in closing the
15 literacy gap for students experiencing poverty. Additionally, the
16 legislature finds that the rise of misinformation and disinformation
17 available through the internet necessitates comprehensive instruction
18 by a qualified teacher-librarian in information literacy, digital
19 citizenship, and media literacy for all K-12 students. The value of
20 these programs was apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. School
21 districts with qualified teacher-librarians and strong school library

1 information and technology programs were better able to support
2 teachers, students, and families during remote learning.

3 The legislature has shown support for school library information
4 and technology programs through the passage of legislation clearly
5 defining both programs and teacher-librarians. These programs have
6 been acknowledged as critically important to supporting state-
7 mandated learning goals, essential academic learning requirements,
8 and high school graduation requirements through inclusion of both
9 teacher-librarians and library materials as part of basic education
10 in the prototypical school model. Teacher-librarians are seen as
11 critical partners in the education of our students including in the
12 equitable and successful use of educational technology. Despite this
13 continued support from the legislature, data shows large areas of
14 Washington where students do not have access to school library
15 information and technology programs staffed by qualified teacher-
16 librarians.

17 The legislature intends to provide access to high-quality school
18 library information and technology programs with qualified teacher-
19 librarians for students and staff at all K-12 levels while also
20 recognizing the value of allowing local school boards to decide how
21 to most effectively implement these essential programs for their
22 schools and students.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 By September 1, 2024, each school district must adopt or amend:

26 (1) A policy that acknowledges the requirement for boards of
27 directors to provide every student with access to school library
28 information and technology programs as specified in RCW 28A.320.240;
29 and

30 (2) Procedures that describe how students can access school
31 library information and technology resources and materials.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.320.240 and 2015 c 27 s 1 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The purpose of this section is to identify quality criteria
35 for school library information and technology programs that support
36 the student learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210, the (~~essential
37 academic learning requirements~~) state learning standards under RCW

1 28A.655.070, and high school graduation requirements adopted under
2 RCW 28A.230.090.

3 (2) Every board of directors shall provide resources and
4 materials for the operation of a school library information and
5 technology program~~((s as the board deems necessary for the proper~~
6 ~~education of the district's students or as otherwise required by law~~
7 ~~or rule of the superintendent of public instruction))~~ ensuring every
8 student in the school district has access to a school library
9 information and technology program as described in this section.

10 (3) "Teacher-librarian" means a certificated teacher with a
11 library media endorsement under rules adopted by the professional
12 educator standards board.

13 (4) "School library information and technology program" means a
14 school-based program that is staffed by a certificated teacher-
15 librarian and provides a broad, flexible array of services,
16 resources, and instruction that support student mastery of the
17 ~~((essential academic learning requirements))~~ state learning standards
18 and state standards in all subject areas and the implementation of
19 the district's school improvement plan.

20 (5) The teacher-librarian, through the school library information
21 and technology program, shall collaborate as an instructional partner
22 to help all students meet the content goals in all subject areas, and
23 assist high school students completing high school and beyond plans
24 required for graduation.

25 (6) The teacher-librarian's duties may include, but are not
26 limited to, collaborating with his or her schools to:

27 (a) Integrate information and technology into curriculum and
28 instruction, including but not limited to instructing other
29 certificated staff about using and integrating information and
30 technology literacy into instruction through workshops, modeling
31 lessons, and individual peer coaching;

32 (b) Provide information management instruction to students and
33 staff about how to effectively use emerging learning technologies for
34 school and lifelong learning, as well as in the appropriate use of
35 computers and mobile devices in an educational setting;

36 (c) Help teachers and students efficiently and effectively access
37 the highest quality information available while using information
38 ethically;

1 (d) Instruct students in digital citizenship including how to be
2 critical consumers of information and provide guidance about
3 thoughtful and strategic use of online resources; and

4 (e) Create a culture of reading in the school community by
5 developing a diverse, student-focused collection of materials that
6 ensures all students can find something of quality to read and by
7 facilitating school-wide reading initiatives along with providing
8 individual support and guidance for students.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 The superintendent of public instruction will provide data,
12 information, best practices, and other assistance to help facilitate
13 school district implementation of this act.

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